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MEDD/BENIS

CARTER TALKS TO PLAYBOY (PLAYBOY)
THE PASSIONATE SCIENTIST (SOCIETY)
THE POST OFFICE AS SYMBOL (SMITHSONIAN)

ANNCR: HERE IS ---------- WITH FROM THE MAGAZINE RACK -- VOICE OF AMERICA SUMMARIES OF ARTICLES ON TIMELY TOPICS FROM AMERICAN MAGAZINES. TODAY, EXCERPTS FROM DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JIMMY CARTER'S CONTROVERSIAL INTERVIEW WITH PLAYBOY MAGAZINE; A LOOK AT THE MENTALITY BEHIND MODERN SCIENCE, FROM SOCIETY; AND THE STORY OF HOW THE RESIDENTS OF A SMALL NEW ENGLAND TOWN SAVED A SYMBOL OF THEIR PAST, FROM SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE.

"CARTER TALKS TO PLAYBOY" -- PLAYBOY (MEDD 3-4130)

REPORTER: THAT JIMMY CARTER, THE BAPTIST SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER, HAD AGREED TO AN INTERVIEW WITH PLAYBOY, THE MAGAZINE BEST KNOWN FOR ITS GLOSSY PHOTOS OF NUDE WOMEN, WAS IN ITSELF A NEWS STORY. WHAT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATE HAD TO SAY IN THE INTERVIEW ABOUT SEXUAL MATTERS MADE HEADLINES LONG BEFORE THE LATEST ISSUE REACHED THE NEWSSTANDS. ADVANCE ACCOUNTS, APPEARING IN MUCH OF THE AMERICAN MASS MEDIA, FOCUSED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON MISTER CARTER'S INTERPRETATIONS OF BIBLICAL TEACHINGS ON THE SUBJECTS OF LUST AND ADULTERY. BUT THE FULL INTERVIEW, NOW AVAILABLE, COVERS A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS: CRIME, TAXES, FOREIGN POLICY AND PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANTLY, JIMMY CARTER'S VIEW OF HIMSELF AND WHAT KIND OF PRESIDENT HE WOULD BE. IN CARTER'S OWN WORDS:

VOICE: "PEOPLE ASK HOW A PEANUT FARMER FROM THE SOUTH WHO BELIEVES IN BALANCED BUDGETS AND TOUGH MANAGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT CAN

VOICE: (CONT'D) POSSIBLY GIVE THE COUNTRY TAX AND WELFARE REFORM, OR A NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM, OR INSIST ON EQUAL RIGHTS FOR BLACKS AND WOMEN. WELL, I'M GOING TO DO THOSE THINGS. I'VE PROMISED THEM DURING THE CAMPAIGN, SO I DON'T THINK THERE WILL BE MANY PEOPLE DISAPPOINTED -- OR SURPRISED -- WHEN I CARRY OUT THOSE COMMITMENTS AS PRESIDENT."

OPT

REPORTER: CONFIDENCE HAS BEEN A HALLMARK OF THE CARTER CAMPAIGN. SOME CRITICS HAVE EVEN ACCUSED THE CANDIDATE OF ARROGANCE, OF WHAT THE PLAYBOY INTERVIEWER CALLED "SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS." WAS HE EVER UNSURE OF HIMSELF, HAD HE EVER MADE MISTAKES, CARTER WAS ASKED.

VOICE: "THERE ARE A LOT OF THINGS I COULD HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY HAD I KNOWN DURING MY EARLY LIFE WHAT I NOW KNOW. I WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE SPOKEN OUT MORE CLEARLY AND LOUDLY ON THE CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUE. I WOULD HAVE DEMANDED THAT OUR NATION NEVER GET INVOLVED INITIALLY IN THE VIETNAM WAR."

REPORTER: VIETNAM, SAYS CARTER, WAS THE PRODUCT OF TOO MUCH OFFICIAL SECRECY WHICH ALLOWED BOTH DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATIONS TO MISLEAD THE PEOPLE. IN A WIDELY-QUOTED AND MUCH-CRITICIZED PORTION OF THE INTERVIEW, THE CANDIDATE ACCUSED FORMER PRESIDENTS JOHNSON AND NIXON OF "LYING, CHEATING AND DISTORTING THE TRUTH." AND YET, AT ANOTHER POINT, MISTER CARTER SAID OF HIS FELLOW DEMOCRAT, LYNDON JOHNSON:

OPT

VOICE: "I REALLY BELIEVE THAT JOHNSON'S MOTIVES WERE GOOD. I THINK HE TRIED TO END THE WAR EVEN WHILE THE FIGHTING WAS GOING

VOICE: (CONT'D) ON, AND HE WAS SPEAKING ABOUT MASSIVE REHABILITATION EFFORTS, FINANCED BY OUR GOVERNMENT, TO HELP THE PEOPLE. I DON'T THINK HE EVER HAD ANY DESIRE FOR PERMANENT ENTRENCHMENT OF OUR FORCES IN VIETNAM. I THINK HE HAD A MISTAKEN NOTION THAT HE WAS DEFENDING DEMOCRACY AND THAT WHAT HE WAS DOING WAS COMPATIBLE WITH THE DESIRES OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE."

OPT

REPORTER: IT WAS PUBLIC PRESSURE, SAYS CARTER, THAT BROUGHT AN END TO THE WAR, AND NOT THE DIPLOMACY OF SECRETARY KISSINGER. THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE IS HIGHLY CRITICAL OF MISTER KISSINGER AND OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY. UNDER DETENTE, HE SAYS, THE UNITED STATES "HAS GIVEN UP TOO MUCH TO THE RUSSIANS AND GOTTEN TOO LITTLE IN RETURN." HE SEES A NEED FOR MORE OPENNESS IN GOVERNMENT, AND FAVORS MORE FREQUENT PRESIDENTIAL CONSULTATION WITH AMERICAN ALLIES AND WITH CONGRESS. AND WHEN ASKED WHETHER INTERVENTION IN OTHER COUNTRIES WOULD TAKE PLACE UNDER A CARTER ADMINISTRATION, HE SAID:

VOICE: "I WOULD NEVER INTERVENE FOR THE PURPOSE OF OVERTHROWING A GOVERNMENT. IF ENOUGH WERE AT STAKE FOR OUR NATIONAL INTEREST, I WOULD USE PRESTIGE, LEGITIMATE DIPLOMATIC LEVERAGE, TRADE MECHANISMS. BUT IT WOULD BE THE SORT OF EFFORT THAT WOULD NOT BE EMBARRASSING TO THIS NATION IF REVEALED COMPLETELY. I DON'T EVER WANT TO DO ANYTHING AS PRESIDENT THAT WOULD BE A CONTRAVENTION OF THE MORAL AND ETHICAL STANDARDS THAT I WOULD EXEMPLIFY IN MY OWN LIFE AS AN INDIVIDUAL OR THAT WOULD VIOLATE THE PRINCIPLES OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ."

REPORTER: THE PLAYBOY INTERVIEW TOUCHED ON MANY OTHER MATTERS -- HOW CARTER JUDGES THE MEDIA AND HIS CAMPAIGN, WHAT HE THINKS ABOUT PRAYER, HIS FRIENDS AND EVEN HIS WIFE. BUT MOST OF ALL, HE WAS ASKED ABOUT JIMMY CARTER. AND HE SAID:

VOICE: "IN THE FIRST PLACE, I'M A HUMAN BEING. I'M NOT A PACKAGED ARTICLE THAT YOU CAN PUT IN A LITTLE BOX AND SAY, 'HERE'S A SOUTHERN BAPTIST, AN IGNORANT GEORGIA PEANUT FARMER WHO DOESN'T HAVE THE RIGHT TO ENJOY MUSIC, WHO HAS NO FLEXIBILITY OF MIND, WHO CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE SENSITIVITIES OF AN INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIP, (WHO'S) GOT TO BE PREDICTABLE.'"

REPORTER: AGAIN AND AGAIN, THE PLAYBOY INTERVIEWER RETURNED TO THE SUBJECT OF CARTER'S RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND WHETHER THEY MIGHT UNDULY INFLUENCE HIS ROLE AS PRESIDENT. BECAUSE BAPTISTS BELIEVE IN THE STRICT SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE, CARTER SEES NO SUCH DANGER. AS FOR THE CHARGE BY SOME THAT HIS RELIGIOUS VIEWS MAKE HIM ARROGANT AND RIGID, THE CANDIDATE SAYS:

VOICE: "THE THING THAT'S DRUMMED INTO US ALL THE TIME IS NOT TO BE PROUD, NOT TO BE BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE, NOT TO LOOK DOWN ON PEOPLE BUT TO MAKE OURSELVES ACCEPTABLE IN GOD'S EYES THROUGH OUR OWN ACTIONS AND RECOGNIZE THE TRUTH THAT WE'RE SAVED BY GRACE."

REPORTER: TO ILLUSTRATE THE CHRISTIAN INTERPRETATIONS OF PRIDE, SIN AND GRACE, CARTER TURNED TO THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT, WHERE CHRIST SAID THAT ANYONE WHO "LOOKS ON A WOMAN WITH LUST HAS IN HIS HEART ALREADY COMMITTED ADULTERY."

REPORTER: JIMMY CARTER'S ADMISSION THAT HE HAD, IN HIS WORDS, "LOOKED ON A LOT OF WOMEN WITH LUST"AND WAS THEREFORE GUILTY OF SPIRITUAL ADULTERY MAY HAVE REVEALED HIS VIEW ON THESE MATTERS, BUT EXPRESSING THEM SEEMED, TO MANY PEOPLE, INAPPROPRIATE FOR A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. IN ANY CASE, THE ENTIRE PLAYBOY INTERVIEW PAINTS A FAR MORE COMPLETE PORTRAIT OF THIS INTERESTING AND COMPLEX MAN WHO MAY BE THE NEXT PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

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"THE PASSIONATE SCIENTIST" -- SOCIETY
(BENIS 3-4130)

REPORTER: SCIENTISTS, MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE, ARE COLD, ALOOF CREATURES, MOTIVATED ONLY BY IMPERSONAL LOGIC AND A RATIONAL CRAVING FOR THE TRUTH. BUT SOCIOLOGIST IAN MITROFF, WRITING IN SOCIETY MAGAZINE, ARGUES THAT A CLOSE LOOK AT THE AMERICAN LUNAR RESEARCH PROGRAM DEMONSTRATES JUST HOW HUMAN SCIENTISTS REALLY ARE. AS PROFESSOR MITROFF WATCHED THE APOLLO FLIGHTS AND THE FIRST LUNAR LANDING, IT OCCURRED TO HIM THAT STUDYING THE MENTALITY BEHIND THE RISE AND GROWTH OF MODERN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COULD BE AS ILLUMINATING AS LEARNING ABOUT THE FAR SIDE OF THE MOON. IN THE PROFESSOR'S WORDS:

VOICE: "TIME AND AGAIN DURING THE FIRST NIGHT OF APOLLO ON THE MOON, I WAS STRUCK WITH THE THOUGHT THAT MORE THAN ROCKS WERE BEING 'UNMOONED' AND PLACED UNDER THE SCIENTIST'S MICROSCOPE. A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THE INSTITUTION AND THE METHODS OF SCIENCE ITSELF WAS TO BE AFFORDED ... ONE WOULD HAVE THAT RARE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY UNDER

VOICE: (CONT'D) CRITICAL CONDITIONS AND WITH THE SAME CRITICAL SENSE THAT SCIENCE HAS STUDIED EVERYTHING ELSE."

REPORTER: AT THE TIME OF THE LUNAR LANDING A GREAT NUMBER OF SCIENTISTS HAD CONFLICTING THEORIES CONCERNING THE ORGIN OF THE MOON. THE ROCKS BROUGHT BACK TO EARTH BY THE ASTRONAUTS WERE EXPECTED TO CONFIRM OR DISPROVE THOSE THEORIES. BUT IT WAS CLEAR TO PROFESSOR MITROFF, AS A SOCIOLOGIST, THAT THE HUMAN ELEMENT IN LUNAR STUDIES WAS AT LEAST AS IMPORTANT AS THE ROCKS THEMSELVES IN DETERMINING WHAT FINDINGS WOULD BE MADE:

VOICE: "MOON ROCKS THEMSELVES CAN NEVER TELL US DIRECTLY WHAT THE MOON IS LIKE. IT IS ALWAYS MEN WHO SPEAK FOR NATURE. THE PROPERTIES OF MEN AND THE PROPERTIES OF ROCKS ARE OFTEN SO INTERWINED THAT IT BECOMES EXTREMELY DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO SAY WHERE THE PURELY PHYSICAL WORLD ENDS AND THE PSYCHOLOGICAL OR SOCIAL WORLD BEGINS."

REPORTER: TO PROVE HIS POINT, DR. MITROFF INTERVIEWED MORE THAT 42 EMINENT SCIENTISTS WHO HAVE STUDIED THE MOON. HE TALKED TO EACH MAN FOUR TIMES OVER A SPAN OF THREE YEARS. THROUGH THESE TALKS AND BY USING WRITTEN QUESTIONNAIRES HE DISCOVERED NOT ONLY WHAT SCIENTISTS THOUGHT ABOUT THE MOON, BUT HOW THEY FELT ABOUT IT AND ALSO HOW THEY FELT ABOUT SCIENCE AND THEIR FELLOW-SCIENTISTS. HE CONCLUDED THAT TO DESCRIBE THE MAN OF SCIENCE AS A COLD, CALCULATING, IMPERSONAL, RATIONAL CREATURE WAS ALL WRONG. THOSE HE INTERVIEWED WERE NOT "DISINTERESTED OBSERVERS" AND THOUGH THEY WERE BRILLIANT, HIGHLY IMAGINATIVE AND CREATIVE, THEY

REPORTER: (CONT'D) ALSO IMPRESSED HIM AS BEING AGGRESSIVE, BIASED, OFTEN RIGID HUMAN BEINGS, WHO FELT FREE TO DISPLAY -- AS THEY OFTEN DID DURING THE INTERVIEWS -- HARSH, INTENSE EMOTIONS. THE BEST WORD TO DESCRIBE THE MODERN CREATIVE SCIENTIST, IN DOCTOR MITROFF'S OPINION, IS "PASSIONATE":

VOICE: "IT IS NOT THAT THESE SCIENTISTS DO NOT TEST THEIR IDEAS, BUT THAT THE REAL PROCESS OF DOING SCIENCE IS MUCH MORE COMPLICATED AND FILLED WITH SUBJECTIVE AND EVEN IRRATIONAL ELEMENTS THAT WE HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED AND HAVE DARED TO STUDY IN DETAIL. TO REMOVE COMMITMENT AND EVEN BIAS FROM SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY MAY BE TO REMOVE ONE OF THE STRONGEST SUSTAINING FORCES BOTH FOR THE DISCOVERY OF SCIENTIFIC IDEAS AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT TESTING."

REPORTER: AS OTHERS HAVE ARGUED BEFORE HIM, DOCTOR MITROFF WRITES THAT HARDLY A SINGLE ONE OF THE GREAT DISCOVERIES OF MODERN PHYSICS WAS THE PRODUCT OF THE SUPPOSEDLY RATIONAL PROCEDURES THAT HAVE BECOME IN PEOPLE'S MINDS SYNONYMOUS WITH THE CONCEPT OF SCIENCE. AND PUSHING HIS POINT EVEN FURTHER, PROFESSOR MITROFF CONCLUDES:

VOICE: "GIVEN THE PRESUMPTION OF UNBIASED, NEUTRAL OBSERVERS UNTAINTED BY STRONG PRIOR CONVICTIONS, IT IS TRIVIAL MATTER TO EXPLAIN HOW SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVITY RESULTS. FOR THOSE OF US WHOSE PROFESSION IT IS TO STUDY SCIENCE, THE PROBLEM AND THE CHALLENGE IS TO EXPLAIN HOW SCIENCE IS STILL OBJECTIVE BECAUSE OF THE PRESENCE OF STRONG PASSIONS, NOT DESPITE THEM."

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"THE POST OFFICE AS SYMBOL" -- SMITHSONIAN
(BENIS 3-4130)

REPORTER: FEW PEOPLE THIND OF THE SMALL TOWN AS REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESENT-DAY AMERICA. YET THERE ARE MANY SMALL COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY THAT HAVE LITTLE DESIRE TO GROW AND CHANGE. THEY STRUGGLE AGAINST GREAT ODDS TO REMAIN JUST WHAT THEY ARE: SMALL TOWN U.S.A.

JANE HOLTZ KAY, WHO SPECIALIZES IN ARCHITECTURE, WRITES ABOUT ONE OF THOSE PLACES AND ITS PEOPLE, IN THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF THE SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE: THE VILLAGE OF LITCHFIELD IN RURAL CONNECTICUT, ABOUT A HUNDRED (160 KILOMETERS) OR SO FROM NEW YORK CITY. HERE IS HOW SHE SEES IT:

VOICE: "FROM THE EAST, ALONG ROUTE 118'S TWINING COUNTRY ROAD, THE WHITE HOUSES DOT THE CONTOURED HILLS LIKE A GRANDMA MOSES CANVAS AND THE GREEN LAWNS GO ON AND ON, A DOLL'S HOUSE OF A TOWN. WALK FOUR MINUTES EAST OR WEST ALONG THE GRASSY MALL AT ITS CENTER AND YOU PACE OFF ALMOST AS MANY SPIRES ON ITS WHITE CHURCHES. DRIVE DOWN HISTORIC SOUTH OR NORTH STREETS AND SEE THE OLD ESTATES STANDING GLOVE TO GLOVE: 'WHITE ELEPHANTS'. THEY ARE PRIZED SPECIMENS OF FEDERAL ARCHITECTURE. NO WONDER THEY WON NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT STANDING."

REPORTER: ALONG WITH THE BUTCHER, THE BAKER AND THE CANDLESTICK MAKER, THE POST OFFICE IS A FIXTURE OF DOWNTOWN LITCHFIELD, BUT RECENTLY THE TOWNSPEOPLE HEARD SOME BAD NEWS. THE POSTAL SERVICE PLANNED TO ABANDON THE GRACIOUS OLD BUILDING AND MOVE TO A STEEL, GLASS AND LIMESTONE BOX IN A NEARBY

REPORTER: (CONT'D) SHOPPING CENTER. THE RESIDENTS LAMENTED THE IDEA. HERE'S HOW MRS. KAY CAPTURED THEIR FEELINGS:

VOICE: "DRIVE IN, DRIVE OUT. NO MORE STANDING ON THE CORNER EITHER; NO MORE CORNER; NO SIDEWALKS FOR THAT MATTER. NO MORE THE MOTHER PASSING TIME WITH A NEIGHBOR WHILE HER BABY YOWLS IN THE MAIL ROOM. NO MORE OLD FOLKS TAKING THE DAILY WALK TO MEET FRIENDS AND ONLY INCIDENTALLY STOPPING TO PICK UP MAIL. NO MORE ALL THE CHANCE MEETINGS, THE ERRANDS, THE SMALL TALK -- THE LIFE OF SMALL-TOWN AMERICA."

REPORTER: BUT THE PEOPLE OF LITCHFIELD WEREN'T READY TO GIVE UP THE LIFE-STYLE THEY CHERISHED. AS QUOTED BY MRS. KAY, DESIGNER HANS C. SEHERR-THOSS PUT IT MATTER-OF-FACTLY:

VOICE: "THE POST OFFICE IS LIKE A GATEWAY. ON THE SOUTH CORNER OF THE L-SHAPED CENTER IT 'INTRODUCES' THE SHOPS THAT SERVE THE TOWN.. IT IS THE LINCHPIN OF THE WHOLE TOWN AND THE COMMERCIAL TOWNSCAPE. UNFIX IT AND YOU UNFIX THE WHOLE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE. I FEEL THAT A TOWN SHOULD GROW FROM THE CENTER."

REPORTER: DESIGNER SEHERR-THOSS WAS NOT ALONE IN THIS FEELING. ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN J.P SADLER AND HIS WIFE STARTED A CAMPAIGN TO SAVE THE POST OFFICE. A POSTAL SITE COMMITTEE WAS FORMED, WASHINGTON WAS REMINDED THAT LITCHFIELD IS A NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT, AND CONGRESSMAN TOBY MOFFET OF CONNECTICUT WAS ALERTED. THE POSTAL SERVICE WAS PRESSURED. THE RESULT IS SUMMED UP BY MRS. KAY:

VOICE: "BY THE TIME THE BUZZING DIED DOWN THIS SUMMER, THE NEW POSTAL SITE ON THE HIGHWAY HAD BEEN REBUFFED. A BOLDFACE BOX IN THE LITCHFIELD ENQUIRER EXULTED: "POST OFFICE PRESENTS PLANS FOR ALTERATION TO PRESENT SITE. IT APPEARS TO BE SOMETHING WE CAN LIVE WITH, THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE CONCURRED." IN MRS. KAY'S WORDS, "FRAGMENTS HAD JOINED AND PRESSED AND -- IT IS HOPED -- INSURED THAT GROWTH WILL GO ON IN THE PROPER DIRECTION."

REPORTER: IN THIS CASE, "THE PROPER DIRECTION" FOR THE PEOPLE OF LITCHFIELD, SEEMED TO BE THE PRESERVATION OF THE OLD WAY. THE POST OFFICE IS A SYMBOL OF GOVERNMENT. BUT LIKE MANY OTHER SYMBOLS IT LINKS THE PRESENT TO THE PAST AND MAKES TOWNS LIKE LITCHFIELD VIABLE COMMUNITIES.

ANNCR: YOU'VE BEEN LISTENING TO FROM THE MAGAZINE RACK, SUMMARIES OF ARTICLES ON TIMELY TOPICS FROM MAGAZINES PUBLISHED IN THE UNITED STATES. YOU HEARD TODAY" EXCERPT'S FROM JIMMY CARTER'S CONTROVERSIAL INTERVIEW WITH PLAYBOY MAGAZINE; A LOOK AT THE PASSIONATE SCIENTIST, FROM SOCIETY; AND THE STORY OF HOW THE RESIDENTS OF LITCHFIELD, CONNECTICUT SAVED A SYMBOL OF THEIR PAST, FROM SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE. NEXT WEEK (AT THIS TIME) JOIN US AGAIN FOR MORE SELECTIONS FROM THE MAGAZINE RACK. THIS IS _____.

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